

Title of the Invention:

VALVE LOCK MECHANISM

Abstract of the Invention:

In a fluid flow control valve having a valve body and a rotatable operating member projecting from the body, a lock mechanism having a driving member adapted for attachment to and rotating the operating member, which driving member has an outwardly-directed groove formed therearound. A turning member is mounted coaxially on the driving member and has an arcuate inwardly-directed groove axially aligned with and opposed to the groove of the driving member. A plurality of balls is located each partly in the two opposed grooves thereby to permit relative rotation between the driving member and the turning member but which prevent relative axial movement. A key mechanism is secured to the turning member and has a detent engageable with the driving member to prevent relative rotation between the driving member and the turning member, the detent being operable by use of a key inserted into the key mechanism. A portion of the key mechanism is in axial alignment with the opposed grooves and serves to retain the balls in those grooves.